

## MELKSHAM

**MELKSHAM** is a market-town, in the hundred of its name; 96 miles from London, 30 from Salisbury, 12 from Bath, 8 from Devizes, and 6 from Trowbridge. Its name is derived from *Melch* or *Milch*, 'milk,' and *ham*, 'a dwelling,' and was formerly spelt *Millnsham* and *Milsham*. In the time of the Saxons this town was a place of note, as it appears from domesday-book to have been a lordship belonging to King Harold, and it afterwards was an appendage to the Crown under the Conqueror; but, though every vestige of its former importance is lost, the name of the lower part of the town, which is denominated 'the city,' is a presumptive proof of its ancient superiority; and this is farther confirmed by the *tailage* it paid in the reign of King John, which amounted to 12 marks, Salisbury paying only 40 shillings. The town at present consists principally of one long street; the houses are in general good, and built with a soft freestone; and its situation, on the banks of the Avon, is delightfully picturesque: the Wilts and Berks canal passes by the town, and joins the Kennet and Avon about a mile and a quarter south of it. A petty sessions for the division of Melksham is held here, by the justices of the peace for the county, on the last Wednesday in every month; a court leet is held half yearly, by R. G. Long and J. Long, Esqrs., who are joint lords of the manor; and a court of requests for the recovery of debts under £5, for the hundreds of Bradford, Melksham & Whorwelsdown and their dependencies, is holden every Tuesday three weeks, at the 'King's Arms.' The principal manufactures here are superfine broad-cloths, and flat and round ropes; there is also a portion of malting trade carried on, and some business is done in tanning.

The church, dedicated to St. Michael, is a large and

spacious edifice, built of freestone, with a handsome tower rising from the transept; the living is a vicarage, in the gift of the Canons of Salisbury; the present vicar is the Rev. George Hume. Here are two baptist, one independent, and one Wesleyan chapels, and a friends' meeting-house. The charities are a public school for teaching 150 boys and 150 girls, on the national system; and a 'provident district society,' for the relief of the sick, the aged and the infirm: here is also a 'society for the suppression of mendicity,' supported by voluntary contributions.—Melksham has for some years been rapidly advancing into note as a respectable watering-place. About half a mile east of the town is an excellent saline aperient spa, similar to the Cheltenham waters, but of much greater strength, and the springs are most abundant in their supply. Though Melksham does not afford so many objects of curiosity for the antiquarian or naturalist as some other places, yet there are few that, within the distance of a short ride, present more attractive and pleasing scenery: the seats of the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Marquis of Bath, Paul Methuen, Esq. and many others, furnish interest to those who delight in objects of magnificence; while the venerable and ponderous remains of STONEHENGE, and the views of Avebury, and Silbury hill never fail to excite admiration in the beholder. The prospects immediately around the town, if not grand, are pleasing; and the walks on the banks of the Avon and the canal cannot fail to please the pedestrian.—A market is held every alternate Monday, which is well attended, and an annual fair on the 27th of July, both chiefly for cattle. The entire parish of Melksham (including the chapelry of SEEND) contained, by the last census, 5,776 inhabitants.

**POST OFFICE**, Market place, Thomas Nalder, *Post Master*.—Letters from LONDON & OXFORD arrive every morning at half-past six, and are despatched every evening at half-past seven.—Letters from BATH, BRISTOL, GLOUCESTER, BRADFORD & FROME arrive every evening at half-past seven, and are despatched every morning at half-past six.—Letters from SALISBURY, TROWBRIDGE, WESTBURY, WARMINGSTER & the WEST OF ENGLAND arrive every evening at half-past seven, and are despatched every morning at 7.

**GENTRY AND CLERGY.**

Bruges William, gent. Semington  
Bush Captain, Semington  
Curtis William, gent. Semington  
Dixon Rev. John, Cannon square  
Finch Mrs. Spa road  
Foster Colonel —, Holt  
Heathcote Mrs. Shaw hill house  
Hume Rev. Geo. Shulldham, Melksham  
Jefferys Mrs. Jane, Cannon square  
Newton Rev. Thos. Cannon square  
Powell Mrs. Mary, Spa road  
Richards Colonel, Bower hill lodge  
Roberts Mrs. Shurnhold  
Webb Benjamin, gent. Market place  
Wiltshire Sml. gent. Broughton road

**ACADEMIES.**

Cochrane Mrs. John (ladies' boarding) Church street  
Dunn Mary (ladies' boarding) near the Bridge [Shaw house  
Evans Manning (gent.'s boarding)  
FREE SCHOOL, Lowbourn—George Kerr, master

Phelps Philip (boarding and day) near the Turnpike [King st  
Waters Wm. (boarding and day)

**ATTORNEYS.**

Awdry Henry Goddard, Union st  
Broom James, Lowbourn  
Moule Frederick & Charles, Bank st  
Phene Nicholas Peter, Cannon hold  
**BAKERS & FLOUR DEALERS.**  
Barton Benjamin, Church st  
Bick Charles, Bank st  
Bolwell Daniel, City  
Brooks Edmund, City  
Cook James, Lowbourn  
Hipsley Rebecca, Cannon hold  
Ruddle John, Lowbourn  
Stow Robert, Bank st  
Vincent Samuel, Market place  
Watson Thomas, Market place  
Woodman James, Market place

**BANKERS.**

Moule, Son & Co. Bank st—(draw on Drewett & Fowler, London)

**BLACKSMITHS.**

Jordan John, Devizes road  
Jordan Richard, Lowbourn  
Jordan Roger, City  
Oatley John, King st

**BOOKSELLERS & STATIONERS.**

Cochrane John (and printer and circulating library) Bank st  
Nalder Maria (and toy dealer) Market place

**BOOT AND SHOE MAKERS.**

Bayly Michael, King st  
Buckland Abraham, Union st  
Buckland William, Cannon hold  
Davis Abraham, Bath buildings  
Shaul Robt. (& leather sellr) Bank st  
Sully James, Bank st  
Usher William, King st

**BUTCHERS.**

Bodman Robert, Bath buildings  
Brewer Henry, Church st  
Butler Robert, Bath buildings  
Haynes George, Bank st

**CARPENTERS AND WHEELWRIGHTS.**

Bolwell Isaac, King st  
Cottle James, City  
Holder Jasper, Devizes road  
Knapp James, Bath road  
Shepherd James (& cabinet maker) Market place  
Webb William, King st

**COAL MERCHANTS.**

Atherton and Vincent (and corn) Semington  
Maggs Charles, Market place

**COOPERS.**

Eyres Edward, Bank st  
Little John, Shurnold

**FIRE, &c. OFFICE AGENTS.**

ALLIANCE, Fredk. Moule, Bank st  
BERKS, GLOUCESTER and PROVINCIAL, Robert Simpson, Bank st  
COUNTY, Frans. Fricker, Market pl  
SALAMANDER, Nicholas Peter Phene, Cannon hold  
SUN, Robert Shaul, Bank st  
WEST OF ENGLAND, Jno. Cochrane, Bank street

**GROCCERS AND DEALERS IN SUNDRIES.**

Marked thus \* are also Drapers.  
\*Cooper Elinor, Bank st  
\*Cooper George Thomas, Market pl  
Davis Benjamin, City  
Downs William, City  
\*Funnell John, Bank st  
\*Hayward Reuben, Bank st  
\*Purnell Henry, Bath buildings  
Shepherd Joseph, King st  
Sidnell Thomas, King st  
Stow Richard Davis, City  
Woodman Jeremiah, Bank st

**INNS.**

(See also *Taverns & Public Houses*)  
Bear, George Giller, Bank st  
Bell, James Newman, City  
George, John Newman, Bank st  
King's Arms (& posting) Geo. Flocks

**MALTSTERS.**

Brownjohn John, Shaw  
Bruges Thomas, Church st  
Eyles Ambrose (& brewer) Shaw  
Green Chas H. Woodrow cottage  
Tayler Robert, Fore st

**PLUMBERS, PAINTERS AND GLAZIERS.**

Hunter and Berry, Church st  
North John (coach & sign painter) Church street  
Palmer John, Market place

**ROPE & TWINE MANFACTRS.**  
Maggs Charles and Co. (and sack and tarpawling) Market place

**SADDLERS.**

Brewer Thomas, Bank st  
Buckland William, Lowbourne

**STRAW HAT MAKERS.**

Buckland James, Bath buildings  
Mansfield Henry, Bank st

**SURGEONS.**

Butcher George Wheeler, Market pl  
Hulbert John Ferguson, Church st  
King Thomas, Lowbourne  
Plimmer George, Bank st

**TAILORS AND DRAPERS.**

Fricker Frans. & Jno. Market place  
Kington Robert, City  
Scott Jasper, Market place  
Shipton Charles, Bank st

**TANNERS.**

Naish Edward & Francis, Semington  
**TAVERNS & PUBLICHOUSES.**  
New Crown, John Boulter, Bank st  
Old Crown, John Buckland, Market pl  
Royal Oak, John Harris, Market place  
Unicorn, William Cottle, City  
White Hart, William Shepherd, King st

**WATCH MAKERS.**

Bullock John, Market place  
Coombes Joseph, Market place

**WINE, SPIRIT AND HOP MERCHANTS.**

Fowler & Mallinson (& wholesale tea dealers) Bank st  
Fowler John, Bank st  
Fox William, Market place

**WOOLLEN MANUFACTURERS**

Phillips John L. and Co. Bridge  
Pollard William, Cannon Hold

**Miscellaneous.**

Eyres William, brightsmith, Union st  
Fry Thomas, livery stables, King st

Giller George, auctioneer & commissioner for taking special bail, Bank st  
Honywill James, furniture broker, King st  
Jefferys Thomas, miller, near the Bridge  
Jones William, tallow chandler, King st  
Kendall John, tin-plate worker, City  
Moon John, breeches maker and fellmonger, near the Bridge [mington]  
Naish Edward and Francis, tanners, Se-North Hannah, haberdasher and milliner, Church street  
Phillips Edward, dyer, Bridge  
Self Edward, clothes salesman, Bank st  
Shaul Benjn. confectioner, Bath buildings  
Simpson Robert, ironmonger, Bank st  
Simpson Wm. brush maker, nr Turnpike  
Spragg James, builder, Lowbourne  
Sutton William Sewell, chymist & druggist, Market place

**COACHES.**

To LONDON, the *Royal Mail* (from Devonport) calls at the King's Arms, every evening at half-past seven—the *Emerald* (from Bristol) every morning (Saturday excepted) at ten—the *Royal Blue*, calls at the Bear Inn, every evening at half-past five—the *Regulator*, every evening at seven—the *Old Company's Coach*, calls at the Bear and King's Arms Inns, every evening at half-past seven—and the *White Hart Coach* (from Bath) every morning (Sunday excepted) at eight.  
To BATH, the *White Hart Coach* (from London) calls at the King's Arms and Bear Inns, every evening (Sunday excepted) at eight—and a *Post Coach* (from Devizes) calls at the King's Arms, every morning (Sun. excepted) at nine.  
To BATH & BRISTOL, the *Royal Blue* (from London) calls at the Bear, every morning at half-past five—the *Regulator* at seven—and the *Old Company's Coach*, calls at the Bear and King's Arms Inns, every morn. at half-past five—the *Emerald*, calls at the King's Arms, every evening (Saturday excepted) at

seven—and the *Star* (from Reading) every afternoon (Sunday excepted) at four.  
To BATH, EXETER and DEVONPORT, the *Royal Mail* (from London) calls at the King's Arms, every morning at half-past six.  
To DEVIZES, a *Post Coach* (from Bath) calls at the King's Arms, every evening (Sunday excepted) at seven.  
To READING, the *Star* (from Bristol) calls at the King's Arms, every morning (Sunday excepted) at eleven.

**CARRIERS.**

To LONDON, — Mitchell, from the Bear Inn, every day.  
To BATH, Thomas Taylor, from Church street, every Wednesday and Saturday; — Harding, from Market place, every Wednesday & Saturday—Samuel Rix, every Tuesday—and — Mitchell, from the Bear Inn, every day.  
To BRADFORD & CALNE, Spackman, from the George Inn, every Monday.  
To BRISTOL, — Mitchell, from the Bear Inn, daily—& Francis Smith, from the New Crown Inn, every Monday.  
To CALNE, — Gatehouse, from the George Inn, every Monday and Friday.  
To DEVIZES, — Harding, every Thursday—and Samuel Rix, from the New Crown, every Wednesday.  
To GLOUCESTER, — Applegate's Van, from the Bell Inn, every Tues. morn.  
To SALISBURY, Francis Smith, from the New Crown Inn, every Friday.  
To TROWBRIDGE, — Canning, from the Royal Oak, every day; — Gatehouse, from the George, every Monday and Friday—and — Applegate's Van, from the Bell, every Thursday.

**CONVEYANCE BY WATER.**

To LONDON & ABINGDON, Daniel Moccock's Boat, weekly.  
To BATH & BRISTOL, James Boswell's Boat, weekly.

**MERE**

Is a market town in the hundred of the same name, 105 miles from London, 22 from Salisbury, seven from Shaftesbury and six from Hindon, situated on the high road from Amesbury to Wincanton. The magisterial business of the town is transacted at Hindon; and a court baron is held here by the steward of Thomas Schutz, Esq. lord of the manor, by lease under the Duke of Cornwall. The principal support of the inhabitants is by agricultural pursuits, and there are a silk-throwing mill and a linen-tick manufactory. There is one established church, dedicated to St. Michael, the living of which is a vicarage in the gift of the Dean of Salisbury; the present vicar is the Rev. Henry Wake, and the resident curate is the Rev.

**POST OFFICE**, James Haytor, *Post Master*.—Letters from LONDON and all parts arrive every morning at nine, and are despatched every afternoon at four.

**NOBILITY, GENTRY AND CLERGY.**

Cassan Rev. Steph. Hyde, Vicarage Grove  
Mrs. Zeals' house  
Hoare Sir Richard, bart. Stourhead  
Latimer Thomas, gent. Mere  
Somerset the Duke of, Bradley  
White Miss Rebecca, Mere

**PROFESSIONAL PERSONS.**

Glover Chas. master of Free School  
Harding William, surgeon  
Larkham John, attorney  
Larkham Wm. gent.'s boarding and day academy, Chantry house  
Newman Nathaniel, surgeon  
Seymour Francis, attorney

**INNS AND PUBLIC HOUSES.**

Angel, James Dowding  
Ship Inn, James Toogood  
Swan, John Lemon  
Talbot, James Cousins  
White Hart, William Keeping

**SHOPKEEPERS & TRADERS.**

Alford Ameriah, blacksmith  
Baverstock Daniel, blacksmith  
Baverstock James, tailor  
Baverstock John, tailor

S. H. Cassan: there is also a meeting-house for dissenters. A small endowment, left by Dr. Tateham, of £10. per annum, is appropriated to the education of poor children. The principal objects of attraction in the neighbourhood are, 'Bradley,' the seat of His Grace the Duke of Somerset, and 'Zeals-house,' the residence of Mrs. Grove. The general feature of the country around here is agricultural, without possessing much variety of prospect. A market is held every Tuesday; and two fairs annually, viz. May 17th and October 10th, for corn and cattle. The parish of Mere comprises the tythings of WOODLANDS, CHADDENWICKE, and ZEALS, which contained, according to the population returns of 1821, 2,422 inhabitants.

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Card Charles, draper & grocer  
Coleman Harry, butcher  
Coleman Thomas, butcher  
Coward Jas. carpenter & shopkeeper  
Coward Jn. carpenter & wheelwright  
Curtis John, grocer & draper  
Down James, edge tool maker  
Down Robert, baker  
Down William, shoe maker  
Glover Andrew, painter & glazier  
Glover Wm. collar & harness maker  
Jupe Jno. & Hy. tick manufacturers  
Lander Edmund, miller  
Lander James, maltster  
Lander William, brass founder  
Light Thomas, carpenter  
Maggs & Co. silk throwsters  
Maidment Edm. Ford, tallow chandler  
Maidment Matthew, shopkeeper  
Maidment Peter, blacksmith  
Maidment Prudence, saddler  
Matthews Henry, shoe maker  
Matthews William, cheese factor  
Moore James, baker  
Moore John, butcher  
Morger Uriah, plumber & glazier  
Parsons Thomas, shoe maker

Parsons William, shoe maker  
Phillips John, maltster  
Standerwick William, carrier  
Thorp John, tailor  
Toogood Charles, miller  
Toogood John, maltster  
Toogood Tobias, baker  
Wardlow Henry & John, carpenters  
Westcott Benjn. straw hat maker

**COACHES.**

To LONDON, the *North Devon* (from Barnstaple) calls at the Ship, every night at ten—and the *Subscription Coach* (from Exeter) every morning at four; both go through Hindon and Salisbury—and the *Defiance* (from Exeter) calls at the same house, every morning at one; thro' Andover, Basingstoke, &c.  
To BARNSTAPLE, the *North Devon* (from London) calls at the Ship, every morning at half-past three.  
To EXETER, the *Defiance* and the *Subscription* call at the Ship, every morn. at 3.

**CARRIERS.**

To LONDON, Whitmash & Brown, every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday—& Woolcott & King, every Wed & Fri.  
To BARNSTAPLE, Whitmash & Brown, every Monday, Thursday & Saturday.